

IN THE CLAIMS

PLEASE AMEND THE CLAIMS AS FOLLOWS:

1. (currently amended) A method for classifying a message, comprising:
receiving a message, the message including a message body;
identifying all items of a certain type in the message body;
reducing each of the all items of a certain type to a canonical equivalent that
identifies a group of synonymous words or phrases;
determining whether the canonical equivalent of each of the items of a certain
type meets a criterion, the criterion corresponding to an acceptable item;
classifying the message based on whether the canonical equivalent of each and
in the event that all of the items of a certain type are determined to meet
the criterion; and, -determination a classification of the message
processing the message in accordance with the classification of the message.
2. (cancelled)
3. (currently amended) The method of ~~A method for classifying a message as recited in~~
claim 1, wherein the items of a certain type include a distinguishing property.
4. (currently amended) The method of ~~A method for classifying a message as recited in~~
claim 1, wherein the items of a certain type include a contact point.
5. (currently amended) The method of ~~A method for classifying a message as recited in~~
claim ~~[[1]]~~ 4, wherein the items ~~include a contact point~~ includes that is a universal
resource locator (URL).

6. (currently amended) ~~The method of A method for classifying a message as recited in claim [[1]] 4, wherein the items includes a contact point~~ includes ~~that is a phone number.~~

7. (currently amended) ~~The method of A method for classifying a message as recited in claim [[1]] 4, wherein the items includes a contact point~~ includes ~~that is an address.~~

8. (cancelled)

9. (cancelled)

10. (currently amended) ~~The method of A method for classifying a message as recited in claim 1, wherein determining whether the canonical equivalent of each of the items of a certain type meets [[the]] a criterion~~ further ~~includes reducing the item to its canonical equivalent and computing a signature based on the canonical equivalent.~~

11. (currently amended) ~~The method of A method for classifying a message as recited in claim 10, wherein determining whether the canonical equivalent of each of the items meets the criterion~~ further ~~includes deriving a signature from the item and determining whether the signature exists in a database of acceptable signatures.~~

12. (cancelled)

13. (currently amended) ~~The method of A method for classifying a message as recited in claim 1, further comprising updating a database of acceptable items through a registration process wherein: determining whether each of items meets the criterion includes determining whether the item exists in a database of acceptable items; and the database is updated by a registration process.~~

14. (currently amended) ~~The method of A method for classifying a message as recited in claim 13, wherein the registration process includes:~~

~~receiving a registration message;~~

~~checking a certificate associated with the message, the certificate confirming that~~

~~determining whether the registration message is from an acceptable source; [[and]]~~

~~In the even that the registration is from an acceptable source,~~

~~extracting an item from the message; and~~

~~adding an entry derived from the item to the database of acceptable items.~~

15. (cancelled)

16. (cancelled)

17. (currently amended) ~~The method of A method for classifying a message as recited in claim 1, further comprising updating a database of acceptable items wherein: determining whether each of items meet the criterion includes determining whether the item exists in a database of acceptable items; and the database is updated by aggregating user input.~~

18. (currently amended) ~~The method of A method for classifying a message as recited in claim 17,~~ wherein aggregating user input includes:

extracting an item from a user classified message; and

updating the state of the item based on the user classification.

19. (currently amended) ~~The method of A method for classifying a message as recited in claim 1, further comprising updating a database of acceptable items wherein:~~

~~determining whether each of the items meets a classification criterion includes~~

~~determining whether the items exist in a database of acceptable items; and the database is updated by post-processing stored messages.~~

20. (currently amended) A system for classifying a message comprising:

- an interface coupled to a mail server, the interface configured to receive the message, the message including a message body;
- a processor at the mail server, the processor configured to execute instructions stored in memory, the instructions including the steps of coupled to the interface, configured to:
 - identifying all items of a certain type in the message body;
 - reducing each of the all items of a certain type to a canonical equivalent that identifies a group of synonymous words or phrases;
 - determine determining whether the canonical equivalent of each of the items of a certain type meets a criterion, the criterion corresponding to an acceptable item;
 - classifying the message based on whether the canonical equivalent of each and in the event that all of the items of a certain type are determined to meet the criterion, determine a classification of the message; and
 - processing the message in accordance with the classification of the message.

21. (currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium having embodied thereon a program, the program being executable by a computer to perform a method ~~computer program product~~ for classifying a message, the method comprising the ~~computer program product being embodied in a computer-readable medium and comprising computer instructions for:~~

receiving a message, the message including a message body;

identifying all items of a certain type in the message body;

reducing each of the all items of a certain type to a canonical equivalent that

identifies a group of synonymous words or phrases;

determining whether the canonical equivalent of each of the items of a certain

type meets a criterion, the criterion corresponding to an acceptable item;

classifying the message based on whether the canonical equivalent of each and

in the event that all of the items of a certain type are determined to meet

the criterion; and ~~determination a classification of the message~~

processing the message in accordance with the classification of the message.

22. (new) The method of claim 11, further comprising updating the database of acceptable signatures through a registration process.

23. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein processing the message in accordance with the classification of the message includes delivering the message to an intended recipient of the message if the message is classified as non-spam.

24. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein processing the message in accordance with the classification of the message includes further analysis of the message if the classification of the message is indeterminate.